

AUG 21 2015

In the Supreme Court of Iowa

Request for Public Comment on)
Proposed Amendments to Iowa)
Court Rules on Professional)
Regulation)

CLERK SUPREME COURT

Order

The director of the office of professional regulation has filed with the Iowa Supreme Court a proposal to amend several provisions in Division III (Professional Regulation) of the Iowa Court Rules. The proposal includes amendments relating to:

- internal organization and financial operations of the office of professional regulation (OPR);
- identification of law students practicing under the student practice rule in court pleadings and motions;
- investigation procedure by the commission on the unauthorized practice of law;
- collection of unpaid fees, costs, and penalties owed OPR or any Iowa court by an attorney as part of the annual client security reporting process;
- collection of the costs of special trust account audits when conducted based on specified causes, if the audit shows the account was not in substantial compliance with trust account rules;
- a requirement that sole practitioners have a written plan of succession for their practice;
- limited reciprocity regarding continuing legal education (CLE) attended by attorneys residing outside Iowa and not actually practicing in Iowa;
- credit against the legal ethics CLE attendance requirement for instruction regarding bias in the court system and attorney professional relationships;
- limited CLE credit for attorneys who prepare written materials and speak or serve as a member of a speakers panel at accredited CLE events;

- collection of fees by OPR for preparation of certificates, examination scores, and copies of official records.

After consideration of the proposed amendments, the court finds that the proposed amendments should be published and that a period should be set for public comment on the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments and a discussion prepared by the office of professional regulation are provided with this order and may be found on the Iowa Judicial Branch website at: www.iowacourts.gov/Supreme_Court/Orders/. In addition, copies are available at the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Judicial Branch Building, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Any interested organization, agency, or person may submit written comments. Comments about a proposed amendment or rule must refer to the specific rule number (for example, Rule 39.18 and the specific numbered line or lines to which the comments are directed. Comments sent by email must be emailed to **rules.comments@iowacourts.gov**, must state **“Recommended OPR Rule Changes”** in the subject line of the email, and must be sent **as an attachment to the email in Microsoft Word format**. Instead of submission by email, comments may be delivered in person or mailed to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Judicial Branch Building, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Any comments received may be posted on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.

The deadline for submitting comments is 4:30 p.m. on October 21, 2015.

Dated this 21st day of August, 2015.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By Mark S. Cady
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice